

Administration to Draft Coal When Cold Wave Comes

Wiggin Leaves for Washington to Consult With Garfield

Supply Is Adequate

Schley Says Receipts Are Increasing and Whole Situation Is Favorable

State Fuel Administrator Albert H. Wiggin left for Washington yesterday to consult with the National Fuel Administration on the subject of insuring New York City against suffering from lack of coal in case of another cold spell. With the temperature dropping and predictions from the weather man that a cold wave is sweeping eastward, local fuel officials felt apprehensive that the city was doomed to suffering which the present supply and the daily receipts could not ward off.

It was stated in the offices of the state and county administration that Mr. Wiggin would ask National Fuel Administrator Harry A. Garfield how to proceed in the matter of "drafting coal," if necessary. An official of the National Fuel Administration made use of this expression in a letter to Health Commissioner Haven Emerson, made public a few days ago. The men responsible for keeping New York City supplied with coal are now working to get about this matter of conscripting fuel.

County Fuel Administrator Reeve Schley said yesterday that the coal receipts at Jersey tidewater points and in New York City were increasing gradually and that the whole situation was rather favorable at present. There was little or no suffering reported, and the cellar dealers are being provided. All the fuel administrators expressed confidence that government control of the railroads would tend to improve matters and that nothing but actual lack of production could plunge the city into any prolonged siege of fuel shortage.

About one hundred representatives of apartment owners' associations called on Mr. Schley during the afternoon to offer suggestions for improved methods of distribution. They were especially bitter in their criticism of the government for having held out assurances last spring and summer that there would be no shortage this winter. They pointed out that they were advised not to stock up, as there would be plenty of coal at lower prices than prevailed last spring.

Dr. Henry W. Berg, of the United Real Estate Owners' Association, told Mr. Schley that the fuel administration's rule which provided that coal could only be delivered in ton lots was "infantile." One ton at a time, he said, was of no use to the owner of an apartment building consuming that amount in two days. He suggested that the administration distribute to each individual purchaser a minimum of ten days' supply.

Would Join Heating Plants

Dr. Berg also suggested that coal could be saved if permission were given for connecting the heating plants of large buildings that had coal with the heating plants of smaller adjoining buildings. Waste steam and return steam could be utilized in this manner to heat buildings the furnaces of which were cold.

He said hospitals, which are on the preferred list for coal deliveries, could heat small buildings adjoining at very slight expense.

Fuel Board to Control Coal and Coke Output

WASHINGTON, Dec. 27.—The United States Fuel Administration made public orders by which Fuel Administrator Garfield plans to gain complete government control of the coal and coke output of the country. The orders are to go into effect immediately upon the termination of all existing contracts, the majority of which will expire on April 1, 1918.

Under government supervision no contract may be made for more than one year's time. Moreover, all contracts will be subject to cancellation at any time by the fuel administration and coal sold under such contracts will be subject to requisition by the government.

The orders abolish what is known as the cross haul. This means that industries must obtain their supply of coal and coke from the fields nearest them, save gas coal and coal used in by-products.

The new orders are the most important to come from the fuel administration in some time. They are designed to aid in carrying out Fuel Administrator Garfield's general plan to establish regional mining and distribution of coal and coke, which it is expected will lead to complete government control of output as well as transportation, should the war continue for any extended period of time.

"Lightless Night" Finds White Way Well Darkened

Lightless night became more of a fact than ever in New York last night. The Great Dark Way blotted out the few white lights which had failed to flicker out along Broadway the week before, and the ancient belief that all one might need to find a friend from Kankakee or the Suez Canal would be to stand at the corner of Broadway and Forty-second Street was, for once, fiction.

While there was no one to verify the statement, it was said that several of the owners of places which had failed to obey the mandate of Fuel Administrator Garfield had received warning that failure last night would result in cutting off their supply of electricity. Be the cause what it may, lights on Broadway were a genuine rarity.

Some few of the hotels and restaurants did succeed in lighting up the gloom for a few feet to either side of their entrances by placing extra lamps just inside the doorways.

In Harlem and The Bronx there was the same careful observation of the ruling and a hasty trip around the city between 9 o'clock and midnight failed to disclose more than two or three isolated instances where strict observance might have been questioned.

J. W. Lieb, Jr., chief engineer of the Edison Company, said the lights which come under restriction comprise about 1 per cent of his company's business, which requires burning 3,000 tons of coal a day. On this basis the saving would be thirty tons each lightless night. Mr. Lieb said his company had not been able to figure the actual saving.

Truck Train on Last Lap

Army Squadron Will Reach Baltimore To-day

WESTMINSTER, Md., Dec. 27.—After a cold, rough trip over the Alleghenies and the Blue Ridge Mountains, during which their progress was much impeded by deep snows, the thirty army trucks, manned by eighty soldiers, in command of Captain Bennett Bronson and Lieutenant C. A. Riley, arrived here from Detroit on the last lap of their journey to Baltimore, which city they will reach to-morrow afternoon.

The squadron left Detroit three weeks ago. Captain Bronson spoke of the cordial receptions given them at various cities, and expressed deep regret over the accident in Ohio, when one of the trucks was struck and wrecked by a railroad train and one man was killed and another seriously wounded.

Coal Shortage Laid to Railroads By Trade Expert

Commissioner Colver Blames Carriers for Miners' Idleness

Inquiry Is Limited

Seizure of Railroads Will Narrow Senate Investigation

WASHINGTON, Dec. 27.—President Wilson's decision to take over the railroads will keep the Senate coal inquiry within narrower limits than originally planned. Members of the manufacturers' committee investigating both coal and sugar, are disinclined to place the transportation difficulties now that they believe improvement is in sight and in the hearing of today touched only casually upon the lack of railroad facilities which has been blamed for most of the coal shortage.

W. B. Colver, member of the Federal trade commission, the only witness to-day, said failure of railroads to place enough cars at mines had resulted in thousands of miners of the country being idle an average of two or three days a week, which not only limits production but tends to make laborers discontented. Had there been plenty of cars this year, he stated, enough coal could have been mined to make up the 50,000,000 ton shortage Fuel Administrator Garfield estimates exists.

Misplacing of Cars Blamed

Mr. Colver reiterated, however, the commission's opinion that no car shortage exists and that misplacing of cars is what is causing the trouble.

Production was at its lowest ebb and prices the highest, he testified, when President Wilson set tentative coal prices in August, and it was price conditions prior to that and transportation conditions, both rail and water, since that led to the present situation. Early last summer, Mr. Colver told the committee, the operators had contracted for 85 per cent of the estimated output for the year at prices higher than those later fixed. Just before the prices were fixed there was violent bidding for coal not contracted for, and in many cases still higher prices were paid.

Then, Mr. Colver explained, the operators hurried to deliver this high-priced product, leaving the contract coal, the bulk of deliveries, until later. In consequence, he said, coal usually shipped to the Great Lakes, New England and other sections during the summer was not sent, and in the fall, when the operators turned to their contracts, there were no facilities for delivery.

Wilson's Prices High

Prices set by the President were high, the Commissioner testified, but not nearly so high as those in most contracts, and much lower than that sold without contract. Existing contracts in most instances have been allowed to stand; hence much coal is being sold at prices higher than those fixed by the President.

The committee will take up sugar again to-morrow morning, with Food Administrator Hoover testifying. The statement which he tried to get before the committee last week already has been made public at the White House, but it is expected he will be questioned during the entire day. Other sugar witnesses may be called for Saturday, but the committee has no definite plans beyond Friday.

\$50,000 Disappears From Railway Mail Pouch

RICHMOND, Va., Dec. 27.—A pouch containing \$50,000, sent by the Federal Reserve Bank of Richmond to a bank in Columbia, S. C., disappeared in transit last Saturday and is believed to have been stolen. No trace of it has been found.

The greatest number of deaths from pneumonia in the twenty-four hours mentioned occurred in Manhattan, 31. In Brooklyn the number was 23. Ten deaths were reported in The Bronx, 8 in Queens and 1 in Richmond.

Total deaths reported in New York from Saturday noon to noon yesterday were 1,121, of which 249 were from pneumonia. This is an increase of 34 deaths from the disease over a similar period the week before.

Buy Liberty Bond To Avoid Lynching

Wealthy Citizen and Pastor Seized by Mob for Alleged Disloyal Remarks

AUDUBON, Iowa, Dec. 27.—Because of alleged disloyal utterances, the Rev. W. A. Starch and Fred Tenkshieg, who is said to be wealthy, were seized by a crowd of citizens yesterday, who put ropes around their necks. Tenkshieg was dragged down a block and released on public square, where he signed a check for a \$1,000 Liberty bond.

Starch also was released, on the intervention of his wife. He promised to leave town at once.

According to reports to-day the mob was made up of parents of enlisted boys. Both men are understood to have been called before the county council of defense several times.

Defence League Agent Is Missing; Spy Chasers Mad

Edwin N. Dingley, of Boston, Who Created "Dollar Detectives," Disappears

[Special Correspondence]

BOSTON, Dec. 27.—Hundreds of patriotic citizens of the state who enrolled as members of the Volunteer Defence Corps, and, after paying one dollar membership fee, pledged themselves to run down German spies, will find an opportunity to use their quick acquired detective ability in locating "Special Agent" Edwin N. Dingley. The special agent, who is a son of a former Maine Governor, has left the city. He was in charge of the local branch of the American Defence League.

The "spy-chaser" scheme was fathomed by the Chamber of Commerce Investigation Bureau and after Lloyd B. Hayes, assistant secretary, called the Massachusetts Safety Committee into consultation Federal authorities were acquainted with the discovery. Dingley could not be located to-night.

Hundreds of amateur "spy-chasers" are now out on their jobs, a long list of dignitaries, including Colonel Roosevelt, whose names were used by Dingley to lure aspiring detectives to enroll, are clamoring for a complete showdown of the matter of the entire American Defence Society, which has branches in 120 cities. Dingley was the accredited representative of the society here. The New York authorities deny that they had anything to do with his "Volunteer Vigilance Corps," of which he styled himself the "special agent."

Two of the New York officials had a conference with the public safety committee and said that they had been duped by him. As part of the effort to unravel the situation, W. Stanwood Field, a local man, has been assigned to sit in Dingley's office in the Journal Building with instructions to merely await developments which may come through visits from Dingley's sleuths.

Pneumonia Costs City 73 Lives in 24 Hours

Spread of Disease Attributed to Fall in Temperature and Lack of Coal

From noon Wednesday to noon yesterday there were 73 deaths from pneumonia reported in New York. Dr. Charles F. Bolduan, director of health education of the Department of Health, stated that was the highest record for pneumonia for twenty-four hours in New York in the last five years.

A pronounced fall in temperature, lack of coal, failure of persons to dress properly for the change in the weather and poor ventilation in homes are placed as the reasons for the increase in pneumonia deaths. He declared that people must take greater precaution to guard themselves against the disease.

Vice Here Is Cut 83 Per Cent, Say Rockefeller Aids

Bureau of Social Hygiene Reports on Five Years' Work

New York City, once characterized by Billy Sunday as the wickedest spot in the world, has become an unprofitable field for exploiters of vice.

Official figures to support this statement were issued yesterday by the Bureau of Social Hygiene, established by John D. Rockefeller, Jr., which has just completed an exhaustive survey of vice conditions here, covering a period of five years preceding November 1 of this year.

The darkening of the city's Great White Way and the continued curtailing of the liquor industry here are accepted as but the outward indications of the underlying fact revealed by the report—that New York no longer is the mecca of the vicious from other parts of the country.

Vice Reduced 83 Per Cent

The summing up of the report shows that commercialized vice resorts have been reduced in number 83 per cent in the last five years. The number of persons engaged in these nefarious occupations has decreased to an even greater extent. Moreover, the changed conditions under which the lingering denizens of the underworld are forced to operate, because of constant activities of the police, are credited with making it more and more difficult for the vicious to trap the unwary.

The police and public opinion are credited with equal shares in bringing about the present result. In this connection the report says:

"The steady reduction of vice in its several aspects is convincing testimony of the degree to which a determined public sentiment, operating through the agency of an efficient Police Department, can control the problem of prostitution. The record for the last year shows that with a continuous, high-minded and cooperative leadership in police administration the Police Department can consolidate the gains previously made and set new standards in safeguarding public health, in establishing public decency and in protecting public morals."

"New York City has become an unprofitable field of operations for exploiters of vice, many of whom have lost thousands of dollars during the last four years trying to operate despite police activity. Their disorderly and desperate lives are being closed, at different locations again and again, they were suppressed as often. Even if they contrived to operate for short periods, at no time did they do a really profitable business."

Bed His Witness Stand

Sick Man Testifies in Suit of Wife Against Parents

The testimony of Arthur Schnatz, of 1471 East Eighteenth Street, Flatbush, who is a material witness in the suit brought by his wife, Mrs. Barbara G. Schnatz, against his father and mother, Mr. and Mrs. George J. Schnatz, charged by her with alienating the young husband's affection, was taken yesterday afternoon under dramatic circumstances. Physicians having declared that young Schnatz, who is only a few weeks to live, Supreme Court Justice Leonard A. Gierich, of Manhattan, appointed Theodore A. McCarrthy referee to conduct the examination of the sick man.

With two physicians watching to note any change in his condition, the lawyers for the suing wife and the parents stood at the foot of the bed and questioned Mr. Schnatz. His answers, which were given in a scarcely audible voice, were unequivocally against his wife. In reply to the lawyers, Mr. Schnatz declared that he had simply grown tired of his wife, and that his parents had nothing to do with his leaving her. The court trial is not expected to take place for some time.

Camp Dix Inspected

2,700 Men Have No Woollen Coats; 19 No Army Clothes

CAMP DIX, N. J., Dec. 27.—Divisional headquarters, after examining the equipment of the 20,000 men in camp, in accordance with War Department orders, announced to-day that only nineteen were without army clothing. About 2,700, however, have not received woollen overcoats.

Brigadier General J. F. Mallory, started for Fort Greene, N. C., to take charge of a regular army command. Major-General Hugh L. Scott, new commandant of the cantonment, is expected to arrive Wednesday. Pending his arrival, Brigadier General J. F. Bean will be in command. Brigadier General John E. McMahon, who has been in command of the negro troops here, is to go south, according to report, with the rank of major general.

U. S. Tries Liquor Seller

New Rochelle Man Accused of Supplying Drink to Soldiers

The trial of Jacob Grab, proprietor of Germania Hall, in New Rochelle, and his son Henry was commenced yesterday before Judge Hand and a jury in the criminal branch of the Federal District Court. They were arrested and indicted on a charge of violating the prohibition against selling liquor to soldiers and sailors after the raid of United States Marshal McCarthy in New Rochelle several weeks ago.

Lawrence H. Axman, representing the government, declared he will endeavor to show that uniformed men were seen to line up in front of the bar in Germania Hall as long as they wished. He also said strong drink was furnished the women habitués of the place, who exchanged drinks with their military companions. A New Rochelle Dispatch will testify as to conditions will be the first government witness called to-day.

Says Bank Head Confessed

PEORIA, Ill., Dec. 27.—Crowds surged into the courtroom this morning to hear the continuance of the evidence in the coroner's inquiry into the killing last Sunday morning of Berne M. Mead, cashier of the State Trust and Savings Bank.

Hugar A. Strause, president of the bank, was in the habit of carrying a revolver, was the statement of David W. Norton, a teller in the bank, who identified the gun found near the body of Mr. Mead as having been removed from one of the teller's cages.

A. M. Bishop, a clerk in a sporting goods store, testified the gun with which Strause is alleged to have killed the cashier will testify as to conditions a month ago to-day.

27th Gets 3,000 Sweaters

Red Cross Distributes Gifts at Camp Wadsworth

CAMP WADSWORTH, S. C., Dec. 27.—Three thousand men of the Twenty-seventh Division to-night received woollen sweaters through the local chapter of the American Red Cross. The total number of sweaters thus far distributed among the men in this camp by the Red Cross is 9,800.

Christmas greetings and New Year's wishes to the members of the division were received to-day in a telegram from Governor Whitman to General O'Ryan.

A number of commissioned officers, including some of the higher brigade commanders, stand a chance of being dropped, according to persistent rumors in camp, as a result of the recent physical examinations here for commissioned officers. The rumor has it that as many as fifty officers may be eliminated.

Ossining Clears Policewoman's Name

OSSINING, N. Y., Dec. 27.—Deputy Sheriff Anna O'Shea, against whom serious charges were brought a few days ago, was exonerated by District Attorney L. P. Davis, of Westchester County to-day. It is expected that Mrs. O'Shea, who was removed from her post as policewoman of Ossining as a result of the accusations, will be reinstated.

Mrs. O'Shea was brought to Ossining from New York about four months ago. Her duties were mainly to be the protecting of young girls. The original appointment was for a probationary period of three months.

At the expiration of that time Thomas Crighton charged that Mrs. O'Shea had tried to persuade his sixteen-year-old niece, Alice Crighton, to act as a decoy for the purpose of obtaining evidence against soldiers and sailors in camp. The charge was made by Police Chief James W. Tompkins. The girl, at that time, corroborated all that the police said.

When questioned by District Attorney Davis, she retracted all her statements. Inasmuch as she was not under oath at the time she made her accusations it is not expected anything further will be done in the matter.

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The chaos and suffering that have already gripped New York City—a vital article by Theodore M. Knappen in next Sunday's Tribune